

Message Text

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17

ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 NEA-10 IO-10 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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P 211415Z MAY 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3284

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 1507

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, HU, US

SUBJ: JEWISH CEMETERY AT SATORALJAUJHELY

REFS: (A) CONG. GILMAN LETTER APRIL 28 TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MCCLOSKEY; (B) SHEPARD NOTE TO MUDD OF MAY 6, 1975

1. EMBOFF MET WITH DR. GEZA SEIFERT, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL BOARD OF HUNGARIAN JEWS MAY 20 AND DISCUSSED LATEST REQUEST OF CONG. GILMAN FOR INFORMATION ON JEWISH CEMETERY IN SATORALJAUJHELY.

2. SEIFERT SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN CORRESPONDING REGARDING CEMETERY WITH RABBI ISRAEL MOWSHOWITZ OF HILLCREST JEWISH CENTER IN FLUSHING, N.Y. SEIFERT ADDED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HAD ASSURED RABBI MOWSHOWITZ AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES THAT SECTION OF CEMETERY CONTAINING GRAVES OF RABBIS IS BEING PRESERVED, ALTHOUGH REST OF AREA HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

3. SEIFERT STATED THAT JEWISH INTERESTS ARE BEING WELL PROTECTED BY HIS ORGANIZATION. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVE FROM AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TO HUNGARY IN NEXT FEW MONTHS TO EXAMINE SITUATION AT FIRST HAND.

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4. BOARD OF HUNGARIAN JEWS PREFERS THAT U.S. CONCERN OVER

CEMETERY AT SATORALJAUJHELY BE COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY TO IT,
AND NOT REPEAT NOT BECOME OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT
ISSUE SINCE THIS COULD COMPLICATE THEIR DEALINGS WITH LOCAL
AUTHORITIES.

5. COMMENT: SATORALJAUJHELY IS LOCATED IN CLOSED ZONE
BORDERING SOVIET UNION, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR
EMBOFFS TO PERSONALLY EXAMINE CEMETERY. WE AGREE WITH
SEIFERT'S SUGGESTION THAT SOMEONE FROM U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY
SHOULD VISIT HUNGARY AND DISCUSS STATUS OF CEMETERY WITH
LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATION. WE ALSO CONCUR IN STATEMENT THAT
THIS QUESTION BEST HANDLED OUT OF OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT
CHANNELS. PLEASE ADVISE IF EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION FROM GOH OR SEIFERTS CONCERNING STATUS OF
CEMETERY.
MCAULIFFE

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